

# **AIMS UPDATE**

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Arizona Department of Education (ADE)  
Standards and Accountability Division  
November 29, 2001

## **DISTRIBUTION**

We urge that each of you who receives an AIMS Update communicate the information to others within your organization and, especially, to students and their parents. Because of their dynamic content, AIMS Updates, as well as all information about the Arizona Academic Standards and AIMS, should be communicated in a timely manner to teachers, special education directors, counselors, assistant principals, and all others who have an interest in students' academic well-being.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

On September 24, 2001 the state Board of Education approved the following:

mandatory attendance of school districts and charter schools sponsored by the state Board of Education at the AIMS pretest workshops to be held from February 4 through February 15, 2002.

changing the name of the Foreign Language Academic Standards to Foreign and Native Language Academic Standards.

## **TESTING DATES**

Stanford 9 – Grades 2 – 9  
March 15 – May 1, 2002

AIMS – Grades 3, 5, and 8  
April 29 – May 10, 2002

AIMS – High School: All Grade 10 students, and all grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet achieved “Meets the Standard” in reading, writing, or mathematics will be tested.

Writing – February 26, 2002  
Mathematics – April 29, 2002  
Reading – April 30, 2002

## **PRETEST WORKSHOPS – Advance Information**

Following, please find a table indicating the areas in which pretest workshops will be held. We are providing this information so that you can note the date of the most convenient location on your calendar. Upon determining specific sites, we will notify all test coordinators how to sign up for the workshops.

**NOTE:** Since the state Board of Education has required all districts and state Board charter schools to attend the AIMS pretest workshops, space limitations dictate that we permit only one representative from each district and charter school.

Monday February 4		Tuesday February 5		Wednesday February 6		Thursday February 7		Friday February 8	
FLAGSTAFF		SHOWLOW		EAST PHOENIX	EAST PHOENIX	WEST PHOENIX	EAST PHOENIX	TUCSON	TUCSON
9:00-12:00	1:30-4:30	9:00-12:00	1:30-4:30	8:30 – 11:30	1:30-4:30	8:30-11:30	2:00-5:00	9:00-12:00	1:30-4:30
AIMS*	SAT 9	AIMS*	SAT 9	AIMS*	AIMS*	AIMS*	AIMS*	AIMS*	AIMS*

Monday February 11		Tuesday February 12		Wednesday February 13		Thursday February 14		Friday February 15	
PARKER		EAST PHOENIX	EAST PHOENIX	OPEN	OPEN	WEST PHOENIX	EAST PHOENIX	TUCSON	TUCSON
9:00-12:00	1:30-4:30	8:30-11:30	1:30-4:30			8:30-11:30	2:00-5:00	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00
AIMS*	SAT 9	SAT 9	SAT 9			SAT 9	SAT 9	SAT 9	SAT 9

\* Mandatory

## AIMS STUDENT RESULTS – Your assistance is needed!

Perhaps the most contentious component of AIMS has been the difficulty faced by the ADE in returning results to districts and charter schools in time to use the results to make educational decisions for students. Under the new AIMS contract, Harcourt Educational Measurement has agreed to produce reports for high school students and to deliver them to districts and charter schools within 35 working days (47 calendar days) from the date that all scorable materials arrive at the scoring center. They have also agreed to deliver test results for grades 3, 5, and 8 by August 1, provided that scorable materials arrive on time.

For Harcourt and ADE to meet the above timelines for the return of materials, we need your help in the following areas:

1. Attend the AIMS pretest workshop and ask questions as needed.
2. Reduce the number of alerts by following the directions for the return of materials.
2. Be sure that teacher ID sheets and school ID sheets are properly completed.
3. Return your scorable answer documents to the scoring center on time.
4. Call Paul at 602-542-5031, if you have any questions. (email [pyoung@ade.az.gov](mailto:pyoung@ade.az.gov))

## ORDERING AIMS MATERIALS

Soon, Harcourt will be sending information to districts and charter holders requesting the number of test materials for the spring 2002 testing. For the spring 2001 grades 3, 5, 8, and high school testing, our contractor printed 193,000 high school test booklets in each of the three content areas and 193,000 answer documents for each of the three content areas. The mathematics test was given to 76,523 students, the reading test to 69,115 students, and the writing test to 68,024 students. The cost of unused test booklets and answer documents is \$69,691.00. With the state's economic situation in mind, we ask that you observe the following when ordering materials:

- ⇒ Harcourt will ship ten percent more tests and answer documents than ordered. This is part of the contract, so please do not include a “fudge factor.”
- ⇒ Do not forget to include the students who test out-of-level. Ask your special education director to provide you with the number of students testing out-of-level and the grade level at which they will test.

- ⇒ On June 28, 1999, the state Board of Education approved a motion giving students who Meet or Exceed the Standard the opportunity to retake AIMS to increase their score in reading, writing, or mathematics. Less than five percent of all eligible students retook the test under this provision. Please ask principals or department chairs to determine an accurate number of students.
- ⇒ Use the most current figures available to you to determine the number of grade 10 students. Your business manager, principal, or attendance officer should be able to provide accurate information.
- ⇒ Determine, by the best means possible for your district or charter school, the number of grade 11 and 12 students that need to be retested. It is difficult to suggest methods since the size and capabilities of districts and schools vary so much. If all else fails, take the percent of students who have not yet met the standard times the number of grade 11 and 12 students and order that many tests.

## **TESTING IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE**

Students will be offered AIMS only in English in spring 2002. The Aprenda will not be offered in spring 2002. Updated LEP Guidelines that may be applied to the spring 2002 administration of both the Stanford 9 and AIMS will soon be posted at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/stanford9/lep.asp>. Changes in the Guidelines for testing LEP students are the result of the passage of Proposition 203.

The Department is developing policies to exclude English Language Learners' (ELL) results from the summary reports. In past years, these results had been included in the summary reports. In the non-test indicator section of the answer documents for both the Stanford 9 and AIMS, there are provisions to identify ELL students. This will be explained in detail at the pretest workshops.

## **SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDENT GUIDES**

The Department of Education will provide Spanish Language Student Guides to AIMS in grades 3, 5, and 8 as a courtesy to Spanish literate individuals, since AIMS will not be offered at any grade level in the Spanish language. All elementary district superintendents, superintendents of unified districts, charter holders (K-8), and directors of K-8 charter schools will receive a letter and order form which may be used to order the guides. Districts and charter holders may order enough guides for dissemination to students, administrators, teachers, parents, and other interested parties.

**NOTE: PLEASE** consolidate the orders so that the Department of Education receives one order form per district. Charter schools may place orders by site, since the orders will be sent directly to the site. Questions may be directed to Paul Young at 602-542-5031 or by e-mail at [pyoung@ade.az.gov](mailto:pyoung@ade.az.gov).

## **PRE-ID LABELS**

Harcourt has set up an e-mail box for pre-ID labels. The e-mail address is [HEM\\_PREID@Harcourt.com](mailto:HEM_PREID@Harcourt.com). You may use this address to send Harcourt the data needed to print your ID labels.

## **STORAGE OF SCORABLE MATERIALS**

Harcourt will retain scorable AIMS materials in Grades 3, 5, and 8 for one year. AIMS high school answer documents will be stored for four years from the date of arrival at Harcourt's Scoring Center.

## TEST COORDINATOR'S E-MAIL LIST

The Academic Standards and Assessment Section maintains an e-mail list of district and charter school test coordinators to allow us to quickly communicate vital information. The last communication sent via the Test Coordinators E-mail List was sent Thursday, November 8, 2001 at 4:05 p.m. If you did not receive the information, please e-mail Paul Young at [pyoung@ade.az.gov](mailto:pyoung@ade.az.gov) and provide your district or charter affiliation, your name, your position, your phone and fax numbers, and your current e-mail address. We will be happy to add you to our list.

## NEW ASSIGNMENTS AND PEOPLE

Dr. Ron Carriveau – Ron has been selected as the new State Director of Assessment. He will oversee test development and the technical aspects of the state testing program. Ron has a B. A. in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona, an M. A. in Elementary Education (Learning Disabilities) from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Measurement, and Methodology from the University of Arizona. Prior to joining the Department, Ron served as Director of Assessment for a large, urban, elementary school district.

Marie Mancuso – Marie will direct the Department's efforts toward our superintendent's goal of all children reading by the end of the third grade. She will continue as the director of the Instructional Support Unit.

Dr. Kavemuii Murangi – Kavemuii will direct the AIMS ED program.

Judi Gentry – Judi graduated from the University of Missouri and taught eighth grade mathematics and science for four years in St. Louis. She began teaching in the Marana district in 1984, teaching sixth grade for three years and eighth grade algebra, computers, and language arts for the following 14 years. She earned her gifted certification from the U of A and began teaching gifted eighth graders 13 years ago. Judi will serve as the Language Arts specialist for AIMS and will conduct six-trait writing workshops throughout the state.

Dr. Charles Bruen – Dr. Charles Bruen has been a teacher of mathematics and computer science for the last 34 years. He graduated with a BS in Mathematics from St. Peter's College, in New Jersey; an MA from Montclair State University, an MS from New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a doctorate from Columbia University, New York City. He has been a classroom teacher, principal, and chief technology officer for the Bergenfield public school district in New Jersey. "Charlie" will serve as a mathematics specialist.

Kathy Scott – Beginning in January 2002, Kathy will develop and implement the Solutions Team Program.

Paul Young – Paul will add the responsibilities for the administration of the Stanford 9 to his existing duties. He will continue as operations manager for AIMS and will serve as your contact for both state tests.

## WITH SADNESS

It is with deepest regrets that I inform you that Barbara Fontaine, Report Card Manager and 15 year employee of the Department of Education, passed away on Tuesday, November 20, 2001.